

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

USIA-06 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 CG-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 OC-05 CCO-00 /082 W

----- 117277

O P 191450Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 062

INFO CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER PRIORITY

CSAF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6247

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR GR US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - TIMING OF HELLENIKON

SUBGROUP MEETING

REF: A. CINCUSAFE 180900Z AUG 75

B. STATE 191421; C ATHENS 6024

1. WE UNDERSTAND CINCUSAFE'S INTEREST IN GAINING MORE TIME BEFORE HAVING TO REACH HARD DECISIONS ON REDUCTIONS AT HELLENIKON. WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AGREE TO DEFERRING HELLENIKON SUBGROUP MEETING UNTIL JAN 76 AND MIGHT, IN FACT, CONSTRUE EFFORTS TO DEFER TALKS UNTIL NEXT YEAR AS DELIBERATE FOOT DRAGGING. THIS IN TURN COULD LEAD TO A TOUGHER GREEK POSITION AND EVEN TO GREEK INSISTENCE THAT WE DRAWDOWN TO 400-450 LEVEL AT HELLENIKON BY A CERTAIN DATE.

2. ON HELLENIKON AS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONSS, IT IS VERY MUCH IN OUR INTERESTS TO KEEP TALKING. WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT
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IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS THESE TACTICS HAVE MOVED THE

GREEKS FROM THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION THAT ALL AMERICANS MUST LEAVE HELLENIKON TO THEIR PRESENT MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION. THERE IS, IN OTHER WORDS, NOTHING WRONG WITH "RUG MERCHANT BANTER" IF WE EVENTUALLY GET THE RUG AT A REASONABLE PRICE.

3. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE EXPECT FINAL DECISIONS ON HELLENIKON WILL NECESSARILY BE MADE AT THE NEXT SUBGROUP MEETINGS IN OCTOBER. WE SHOULD HOWEVER BE PREPARED AT THAT TIME TO INDICATE TO THE GREEKS THE DIMENSIONS OF FURTHER DRAWDOWNS IN US PERSONNEL AT HELLENIKON AND TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RELOCATION OF SOME PART OF OUR RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITY. AS SUGGESTED BY CINCUSAFE, THIS MIGHT INCLUDE SURVEY VISITS TO ALTERNATE RECONNAISSANCE LOCATIONS.

4. WE FULLY SHARE DEPT'S VIEW (REFTEL B) THAT, GIVEN APPARENT FIRMNESS OF GREEK POSITION ON HELLENIKON, OUR OWN PRIORITIES AND NEGOTIATING POSITIONS MUST BE CAREFULLY PREPARED BEFORE ENTERING A NEW ROUND OF SUBGROUP MEETINGS. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS DEPT HAS ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN GOG CONCURRENCE TO REF B TIMETABLE, CALLING FOR SOFA SUBGROUP TO BEGIN SEP 15, HELLENIKON OCT 1, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUBGROUP OCT 6.
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